

Tyrannidae until their internal anatomical characters are ascertained. Dr. Hellmayr follows pretty closely the scheme of classification proposed by the late Count von Berlepsch and divides the family into seven sub-families with the following number of genera; Fluvicolinae (7), Tyranninae (13), Myiarchinae (20), Platyrinchinae (5), Euscarthminae (25), Serpophaginae (9) and Elaeniinae (16).

The method of treatment of the species follows that adopted in previous parts of the work and the wealth of descriptive foot notes and abundance of localities cited are a great help to the student.

The following new forms and genera are proposed: *Agriornis montana intermedia* (p. 5) Tacna, Chile; *Muscisaxicola rufivertex pallidiceps* (p. 21) San Pedro, Antofagasta, Chile; *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis centralis* (p. 49) Panao Mts., Peru; *Knipolegus lophotes* (p. 67) for *K. comata* preoccupied; *Empidonomus aurantio-atro-cristatus minor* (p. 116) Maranhao, Brazil; *Myiarchus ferox australis* (p. 177) Agua Suja, Brazil; *Myiochanes cinereus pallescens* (p. 194) Bahia, Brazil; *Cnemotriccus poecilurus venezuelanus* (p. 226) Menda, Venezuela; *Terenotriccus erythrurus brunneifrons* (p. 231) Tres Arroyos, Bolivia; *Myiobius atricaudus snethlagei* (p. 240) Maranhao, Brazil; *Todirostrum viridanum* (p. 301) Rio Auraro, Venezuela; *Poecilotriccus ruficeps melanomystax* (p. 325) Salento, Colombia; *Elaenia albiceps chilensis* (p. 413) Curacautin, Chile; *Phyllomyias brevirostris cearae* (p. 465) Ceara, Brazil. New genera: *Neoxolmis* (p. 39) type *Tyrannus refulventris* Vieill., *Cnemotriccus* (p. 221) for *Empidochanes* which is a synonym of *Myiophobus*; *Tolmomyias* (p. 273) type *Platyrhynchus sulphurescens* Spix; *Uromyias* (p. 378) type *Euscarthmus agilis* ScL.—W. S.

Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds.'—Mr. Bent's sixth volume¹ of life histories of North American Birds covers the Flamingo, Herons, Ibises, Rails, etc., and is larger than any of its predecessors. The treatment follows exactly the same plan and the work is fully up to the high standard previously established. There are ninety-eight plates most of them consisting of two views and they contain some very fine examples of bird photography.

We continue to be amazed at the amount of material that Mr. Bent has brought together and the comparatively short time that it has taken him to prepare his volumes for the press as well as the excellent judgment that he has shown in selecting material from the literature. Dr. C. W. Townsend has prepared five of the life histories and Mr. T. E. Penard that of the Scarlet Ibis, while Rev. P. B. Peabody is responsible for much of the account of the Yellow Rail.

We can add but little to what we have already said in previous reviews as to the excellence of Mr. Bent's work. Ornithologists will find it a

¹ Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds. Orders Odontoglossae, Herodiones and Paludicolae. By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Bulletin 135, U. S. National Museum. 1926 [= March 11, 1927 fide C. W. Richmond] pp. i-xii + 1-490, pls. 1-98.

storehouse of information, a reference work to turn to, and an entertaining piece of ornithological literature. We notice an ever increasing list of acknowledgements and would once more urge those who have the time for field work and have secured information that they have reason to think would prove acceptable, to communicate with Mr. Bent at once. There may yet be time to include items regarding the Shorebirds while the life histories of all of the "land birds" are yet to come.—W. S.

Hoffman's 'Birds of the Pacific States.'—Mr. Ralph Hoffmann, well known for his 'Guide to the Birds of New England and Eastern New York,' has for some years been a resident of California and is now director of the Museum of Natural History at Santa Barbara. Fortunately for himself and for many others his interest in bird life has not suffered by his change of residence, and he has made good ornithological use of his time to judge by the little book¹ that he has just issued on the 'Birds of the Pacific States.' The keynote to this publication is field identification and the 400 odd species are described with this object always in view. Under each specific heading is from half to three quarters of a page descriptive of the mode of occurrence, characteristic actions, song, etc., of the bird under consideration; then come the measurements of length and extent and a concise description of the points best seen in the field followed by a brief statement of the bird's distribution in California, Oregon and Washington. If there happen to be two or more subspecies they are usually listed in this distributional paragraph with the range of each in the three States, but with no mention of their distinctive characters. Occasionally, however, the same treatment is given subspecies as that accorded to a species as in the case of the three White-crowned Sparrows and the Olive-backed and Russet-backed Thrushes. The various races of Song Sparrows are however all lumped together as are those of Hermit Thrushes and Fox Sparrows.

Inasmuch as subspecies are based not upon degree of difference but upon the criterion of intergradation, while field identification is concerned with degree of difference without caring whether intergradation occurs or not, it seems perfectly proper to be inconsistent and to treat as "ornithological units" all forms that are sufficiently different to be clearly identifiable in the field.

The practical elimination of the subspecies in this work gives us what Dr. Joseph Grinnell suggested sometime ago as an interesting experiment *i. e.* a list of the *species* of Californian birds. A still more striking feature however is the adoption of the classification of the new A. O. U. 'Check-List' so that this book of Mr. Hoffmann's is the first to present the birds

¹ Birds of the Pacific States, Containing Brief Biographies and Descriptions of about Four Hundred Species, with especial reference to their appearance in the Field. By Ralph Hoffmann, with Ten Plates in Color and over Two Hundred Illustrations in Black and White, By Major Allan Brooks, Boston and New York. Houghton Mifflin Company. The Riverside Press Cambridge. 1927. pp. i-xix + 1-353. Price \$5.00.